

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

List of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A real-time inventory status and information system comprising:
 - a database, wherein the database stores at least on-hand, reserved, and ordered inventory information associated with a plurality of inventory items;
 - a client, wherein the client provides a user interface to the system, and wherein the user interface permits selection of at least one of the plurality of inventory items and requests inventory information associated with the selected inventory items;
 - a server, wherein the server provides the client with real-time inventory information associated with the selected at least one inventory item by transmitting to the client updates to the at least a subset of the inventory information requested by the client as such inventory information changes; and,
 - a communication interface, wherein the communication interface provides access to the database, the interface communicating between the server and the database.
2. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1, said server comprising a web server.
3. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 2, said client comprising a web browser.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1, the client comprising a web browser and custom software, wherein at least one of the web browser and the custom software permits real-time inventory display.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,
the client comprising a web browser and custom software, wherein at least one of the
web browser and the custom software permits real-time inventory control.

8. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,
the client comprising a web browser and custom software, wherein at least one of the
web browser and the custom software permits real-time inventory display,
monitoring, and control.

9. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,
said client comprising a device capable of reading container labels.

10. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 9,
said device comprising a barcode scanner.

11. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,
wherein the client periodically requests inventory updates from the server.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of real-time inventory item status and information
dissemination, comprising the steps of:

recording in an inventory database a quantity on-hand for a plurality of inventory items,
the inventory database being stored in an electronic data storage element in a
server;

recording in the inventory database a first order for a first inventory item and the corresponding order properties, the corresponding order properties comprising a first quantity ordered, a date ordered, and at least one of an anticipated delivery time and an anticipated delivery date, ~~wherein the first order represents~~ representing an order placed with a supplier, the first inventory item being one of the plurality of inventory items;

recording in the inventory database a second quantity of the first ~~second~~ inventory item received from the supplier by at least incrementing the on-hand inventory item quantity corresponding to the first ~~second~~ inventory item, wherein the on-hand inventory item quantity is incremented in an amount equal to the second quantity;

storing in the inventory database information associated with at least one purchase request for a third quantity of ~~a third~~ the first inventory item, ~~wherein the storing step comprises~~ comprising placing a quantity of inventory items on reserve by incrementing in the inventory database an on reserve inventory item quantity by an amount corresponding to the third quantity for the first ~~third~~ inventory item;

receiving from a user, via a client, at least one request for information about the first a ~~fourth~~ inventory item;

calculating, via one of the server or the client, an inventory item quantity available for delivery for the first ~~fourth~~ inventory item as a difference between an inventory item quantity on-hand and an inventory item quantity on reserve for the first ~~fourth~~ inventory item;

displaying for the user, via ~~on~~ the client, the inventory item quantity available for delivery for the first ~~fourth~~ inventory item; ~~and,~~

transmitting, via a wireless communications means, from the server to the client the updated inventory item quantity available for delivery for the first ~~fourth~~ inventory item when the inventory item quantity available for the first ~~fourth~~ inventory item changes, thereby providing the client with real-time access to inventory information about the first ~~fourth~~ inventory item; and,

displaying for the user, via ~~on~~ the client, the updated inventory item quantity for the ~~fourth~~ first inventory item.

13. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, wherein said first orders are entered through an accounting system.
14. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 13, wherein said accounting system automatically updates the corresponding order properties in the inventory database.
15. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, wherein electronically readable codes corresponding to inventory items are used as a basis for recording inventory items as they are received, returned, or shipped.
16. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 15, in which said electronically readable codes are Universal Product Code (UPC) codes.
17. (Canceled)
18. (Previously Presented) The real time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, further comprising the step of reading an electronically readable code corresponding to a sixth inventory item as the sixth inventory item is shipped.
19. (Canceled)
20. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, further comprising recording in the inventory database any

RESPONSE

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inventory items returned by a customer by at least incrementing the on-hand

inventory item quantity corresponding to the returned inventory items.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination

method of Claim 12, further comprising decrementing in the inventory database both reserve and on hand inventory item totals corresponding to ~~a fifth~~ the first inventory item upon shipment of the ~~fifth~~ the first inventory item, wherein the reserve and on hand inventory item totals are decremented by an amount equal to the quantity of the ~~fifth~~ first inventory items in the shipment.

23. (Previously Presented) A real-time inventory information system, comprising:

a client, wherein the client comprises a browser, and wherein the browser provides a user interface through which updated inventory information about a selected inventory item can be displayed;

an inventory database, wherein the inventory database comprises inventory information about a plurality of inventory items, wherein the inventory information for each of the plurality of inventory items comprises quantity on hand, quantity on order, and quantity on reserve; and,

a server, wherein the server monitors changes to the inventory information about the selected inventory item in the inventory database and transfers at least a subset of the updated inventory information to the client as such changes occur, thereby providing the client with real-time access to the inventory information.